AUTUMN 2025

Wakehurst Matters

Michael REGAN

Your Independent MP for Wakehurst

Dear Wakehurst Resident,

I hope you got a chance to catch your breath over the summer holidays. I loved watching our women and men's cricket teams win their respective series and I even got a few jobs done around the house. My favourite thing though, is being out and about in our community, seeing old friends and meeting new ones, asking questions, gathering information, to help me do a better job.

The parliamentary year has begun in earnest, and my team and I are back on the field, batting for Wakehurst. Transport, schools, health, planning and more - we are working hard on the issues that matter.

Actually *getting* to work is the first step. I am betting that most of you have had to wait in a long queue for a bus or check the transport app, only to see every third bus cancelled? Me too! I share your frustration. Then the NSW Government tells us we should accept more housing density while this is unresolved. Crazy! I am speaking directly with the Transport Minister and Premier to **pause density reforms and urgently invest in more buses and drivers to fix this mess**.

In good news, together with the Minister for Youth and Mental Health, I was pleased to announce $4.5 million for a **new Youth Mental Health Hub in Brookvale**. In addition, working with high school principals, we have also secured a **boost for student engagement and vocational pathway programs** for our local public high schools.

The Lizard Rock/ Patyegarang **rezoning proposal in Belrose will be decided soon**. At every opportunity, I have highlighted the recklessness of allowing hundreds of new homes on bushfire prone land. Surely the shocking LA fires in January remind us of why we should abandon these proposals.

Northern Beaches Hospital has again been in the news, for all the wrong reasons. Hearing stories like these - heartbreaking and alarming - is why I initiated the **performance audit of Northern Beaches Hospital** by the independent NSW Auditor General last year. Their report will be released soon and I am sure it will make compelling reading. Thank you to all who made submissions. It will make a difference. Recent shocking events only strengthen my resolve to keep the pressure on private operator Healthscope to **put people before profit,** including increasing nurse/patient ratios and pay.

I hope you enjoy getting up to date on these topics, and much more, in this edition of ***Wakehurst Matters***.

Kind regards,

Michael Regan MP
Your Independent Member for Wakehurst

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Housing Density Only Possible with Bus Fix

The NSW Government has introduced their signature low and mid-rise planning reforms. These state-led zoning changes allow dual occupancies, terraces, townhouses, apartments and shop top housing within 800 metres of identified 'town centres'. The **five town centres identified in Wakehurst are Forestville, Forest Way, Frenchs Forest Precinct, Dee Why and Warringah Mall.**

I support more diverse housing options for people at all stages of life. **I support density done well.** However, the whole premise of the NSW Government's housing push is to put more homes near effective public transport. On the northern beaches, buses are our only form of public transport, and right now they are **failing to meet the needs of existing residents, let alone future ones!**

As a regular bus commuter, I share your frustration at frequent bus cancellations, long queues and chronically overcrowded services. And don't start me on the queuing situation at Wynyard. There are not enough drivers or buses to meet current demand, before we increase demand any further. **I have called on the Premier to pause the implementation of the low and mid rise planning reforms in our area until bus service reliability is significantly improved.**

We know what is needed: replace the bendy buses which are out of action, buy more double decker buses, enhance the Dee Why to Chatswood bus link as a high frequency, high capacity service to get people onto the Metro at Chatswood. We also need the Keoride "on demand" service extended to the Forest and surrounds, pay drivers more and provide dedicated housing options for them as essential workers to live locally.

I have been calling for these actions since being elected and we have had some good wins, including the **82 additional weekly B-Line services** added in January. But with more density being imposed with no guarantees of increased buses, **I am more determined than ever to make the case to the government.**

You can view rezoned areas, including individual properties, on the spatial viewer accessed via the **NSW Department of Planning website: www.planning.nsw.gov.au/policy-and-legislation/housing/low-and-mid-rise-housing-policy**

DEFENDING MANLY DAM

Late last year, the NSW Environmental Protection Authority (EPA) fined ADCO Construction for water pollution at the new Forest High site, which saw an **alarming amount of sediment run off into Manly Dam and Curl Curl Creek.**

I was proud to work with the local community and *Save Manly Dam Catchment* as we **advocated to the NSW Environment Minister and the EPA** to investigate this and other pollution incidents. However, this is a bittersweet outcome. Whilst it is good to see the EPA hold contractors accountable for doing the wrong thing, the damage is already done to our waterways.

Following this news, I wrote to the Minister requesting the **fine be reinvested into environmental protections and restoration projects at Manly Dam.** I was pleased to receive a response from the Minister saying that EPA was looking to spend revenue from the fine on native fish survey work at Manly Dam. I continue to pursue this through parliamentary questions to make sure it happens.

Tackling Illegal Smoking Products

I know many of you are as concerned as me by the prevalence of illegal tobacco and e-cigarettes in our community, particularly their proximity to our schools and children.

So I was glad to support legislation creating a **new licensing regime** for retailers and wholesalers of tobacco and non-tobacco smoking products, that **dramatically increases fines** for selling illicit tobacco, and recruits **more enforcement officers** to strengthen compliance.

Individuals **selling tobacco products to minors** will be fined up to $22,000 for a first offence and $110,000 for a subsequent offence, with corporations liable for up to $110,000 for a first offence and $220,000 for subsequent offences.

Individuals selling tobacco products not in the required packaging or with the mandatory health warnings will be fined up to $22,000 and corporations up to $110,000.

Members of the public are encouraged to **report suspected breaches** of tobacco and e-cigarette retailing laws by calling the **Tobacco Information Line on 1800 357 412.**

New Youth Mental Health Hub Coming to Brookvale

Along with the Minister for Mental Health, Rose Jackson MLC and fellow independent MPs, I was pleased to announce a **$4.48 million investment by the NSW Government in a new Youth Mental Health Hub**. This will be located at the Brookvale Community Health Centre, next to the Brookvale Safe Haven, which opened in September.

The new Youth Mental Health Hub will provide a **one-stop shop** where our local youth can receive comprehensive, integrated mental health care and get connected to other services.

Currently the Brookvale Safe Haven offers young people in mental health distress a welcoming space where teenagers can talk openly and seek one-to-one support and safety planning for mental health distress. The Safe Haven is for 12-17 year olds. **It is free and requires no appointment.**

Please spread the word about the Brookvale Safe Haven so our young people know about this option. It is **open 7 days a week between 4pm and 8pm, including public holidays**, and is located on Pittwater Road, opposite Warringah Mall.

Since being elected, I have consistently worked with the Minister's Office to get this funding (committed by the previous government) for youth mental health on the northern beaches, out the door and benefiting our community.

Northern Beaches Hospital Still in the Spotlight

Northern Beaches Hospital has again been in the news for all the wrong reasons. These stories are heartbreaking and alarming. They strengthen my resolve to keep the pressure on private operator Healthscope to put people before profit, including increasing nurse ratios and pay. The NSW Auditor General's performance audit of the hospital I initiated will soon be released and cannot come soon enough.

I was proud to stand with Northern Beaches Hospital nurses and midwives at a stop work rally, **calling on Healthscope to ensure safe and consistent standards of care**. Healthscope is paid by the NSW Government to treat public patients in our region. But ultimately, our local hospital is run privately, for profit.

Right now, nurses and midwives from Northern Beaches Hospital are in enterprise agreement negotiations with Healthscope. Despite their tireless work, **Northern Beaches Hospital nurses and midwives are paid up to 16% less** than their Healthscope counterparts in Queensland. What's more, increased staff-to-patient ratios being rolled out at public hospitals under the **NSW Government's *Safe Staffing* policy will not apply** to the private Northern Beaches Hospital.

We are at risk of being left behind. To ensure our community receives the care it deserves, we call on private hospital operator Healthscope to:

1. Provide a 15% pay rise for nurses and midwives; and
2. Implement staff-to-patient ratios consistent with the standards being introduced in New South Wales public hospitals under the Government's *Safe Staffing* policy.

Please sign the petition on my website www.michaelreganmp.com to demand better pay and safer staffing ratios for our nurses and midwives at Northern Beaches Hospital. This is crucial to attract and retain the skilled nurses and midwives we depend on.

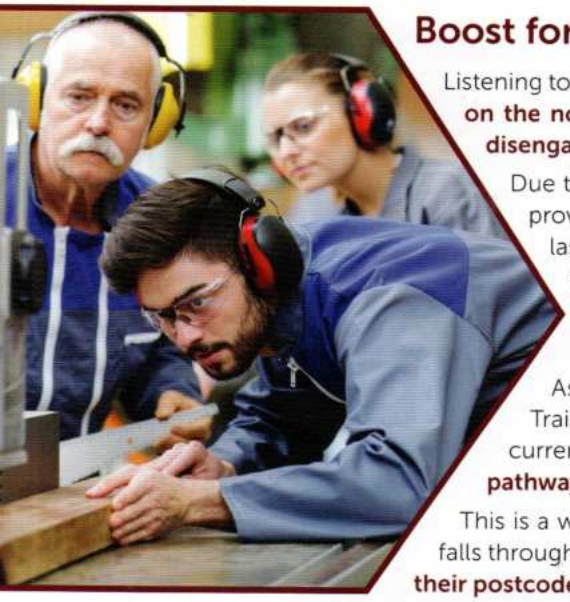
Please sign the petition on my website!

WAKEHURST'S WOMAN OF THE YEAR!

I am proud to announce that the incredible **Samantha Neaves** is this year's Local Woman of the Year for Wakehurst. Sam is well known and much beloved in our community as the **amazing force behind the incredible StageArtz**.

The StageArtz annual charity shows have raised **over $300,000 for the Children's Hospital at Westmead.** This is a deeply meaningful achievement that has made such a difference to the lives of sick kids and their families, and has come to be because of Sam's phenomenal drive and leadership.

Thank you and congratulations Samantha!



Boost for High School Student Engagement Programs

Listening to families, teachers and community organisations, I hear that our **public high schools on the northern beaches do not have enough resources to assist students who become disengaged** from their learning and need extra support to find their path in life.

Due to demographic factors, our area does not qualify for youth engagement programs provided in some other parts of the state, **despite there being a clear need**. In response, last year I convened a roundtable of our high school principals with senior staff from the NSW Department of Education.

Following this, the department has announced funding for a **two-year pilot to extend their *Educational Pathways Program* across the northern beaches**.

As part of the program, there will be an additional Careers, Apprenticeships and Traineeships Officers servicing our public high schools. Recruitment for these roles is currently underway. **This additional capacity will give students access to advice, training pathways and work opportunities.**

This is a welcome investment, but there is much more to do to make sure no young person falls through the cracks. **Every student in need deserves access to these programs regardless of their postcode** and I have made that clear to both the Department and Minister for Education.

"Lizard Rock" Rezoning Now with RFS

After an all-day public hearing in December, the **North Sydney Planning Panel unwisely made a 3-2 decision** to continue liaising with the NSW Rural Fire Service (RFS) and seek agreement on *"what changes might be required"* for the RFS to support the rezoning of this high fire risk bushland in Belrose.

The recent Los Angeles wildfires were shocking in scale and ferocity. More than 10,000 homes were destroyed, with losses exceeding USD250 billion. In Australia, experts warn us it is only a matter of time before a fire event at the scale and ferocity happens here.

The catastrophic Los Angeles fires and our own devastating 2019/20 fire season, carry **important lessons for strategic planning** in urban bushland interface areas, including the Patyegrang/Lizard Rock proposal.

During Question Time in February, I **maintained pressure** by asking the Minister for Emergency Services Jihad Dib MP *"How is the NSW Government ensuring that rezoning proposals on bushfire-prone land are assessed to protect future residents from risk to life, property, and potential financial ruin through unattainable insurance, as well as protect future governments from massive financial and moral liability for reckless decision making today?"*

I understand the Department of Planning's motivations in wanting to find ways for the Metropolitan Local Aboriginal Land Council to generate income from their lands, including the Patyegrang/Lizard Rock site. However, **we cannot right past wrongs by committing new wrongs** that deny the facts of escalating fire risk and put future lives at risk, including our volunteer firefighters. Stay Strong RFS!

Food Organics Waste Collection

Sydney is running out of landfill space for our waste thanks to poor planning. More than a third of landfill waste generated by households is food. If food waste is collected separately and processed into compost, this creates a valuable resource for use in parks, sporting fields and agriculture.

These reasons are why the **NSW Parliament recently legislated a mandate to require Food Organics and Garden Organics (FOGO)** collection for all households by 2030 and for large business and institutions in stages from July 2026.

Many councils already collect food organics, but on the northern beaches we only have the very valuable garden organics collection.

I am supportive of food organics collection in principle, but understand the many practical challenges involved. I moved several amendments to the *Protection of the Environment Legislation Amendment (FOGO Recycling) Bill 2024* to increase flexibility and reduce costs for local councils. Unfortunately, the government and opposition did not agree to these sensible changes. However, I was pleased they did agree to one of my amendments to **create a FOGO Implementation Advisory Panel to formalise consultation with council and industry** on this major reform.

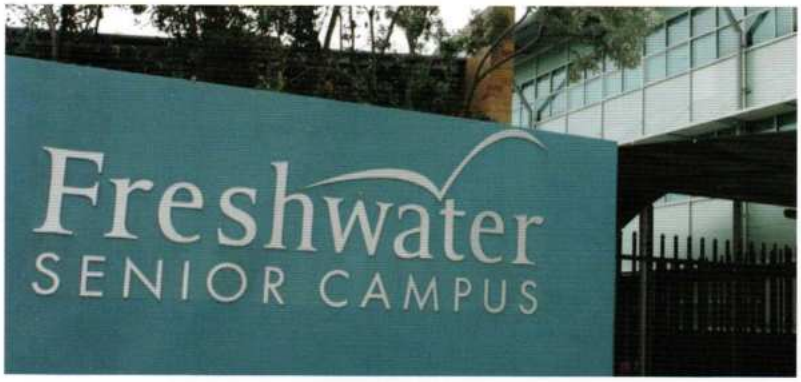
Some Nice Feedback

I am proud of the work my Electorate Office team does every day to help Wakehurst constituents. They get in their corner and advocate for them, engaging with service providers, both government and non-government, to get better outcomes for them and their families.

After assisting with a housing matter, a Dee Why constituent sent us some nice feedback:

"I still can't believe it! How you immediately took on my family's case and intervened with letters and phone calls on our behalf and had a great outcome for us!"

"I can't thank you enough Michael. What you did for us. Not just now but for the rest of our lives, when I am old and grey and my kids are in high school. They will have a place to call home thanks only to how you helped."



Changes at our Public High Schools

Late last year, the NSW Department of Education announced the Northern Beaches Secondary College **Freshwater Senior Campus will transition from a Senior Campus to a Year 7–12** campus. This change was set to commence next year.

This is a significant change and there is strong feeling both for and against within the community. I specifically received feedback from parents of students starting this year that they were not getting what they "signed up" for, with Years 7 and 9 being integrated while their children complete the HSC. This was an entirely reasonable ask, so I was happy to discuss it directly with the Minister for Education.

The NSW Department of Education has now agreed to delay Freshwater Senior Campus's transition to a Year 7-12 co-ed high school by one year. **The updated timeframe will now see Years 7 and 8 start at Freshwater in 2027, and Years 7-12 from 2028.**

This change ensures the current Year 11 students can complete their senior studies as anticipated, without disruption. I believe this to be a **good compromise. I was glad to help negotiate this outcome.**

Excitingly, construction of the **new Forest High** is progressing well and is set to open later this year. The Education Department has also announced **changes to the catchment areas** for many local primary and high schools. You can find these at www.schoolfinder.education.nsw.gov.au.

County Road Reserve Needs an Upgrade

Consistent with my election commitment to upgrade and enhance our sporting and recreation facilities, I am **seeking funding to upgrade the 2.25 hectare County Road Reserve in Belrose**.

This upgrade was put on hold indefinitely by the former government, despite extensive community consultation and planning.

The upgrade would make the reserve more accessible and help **address the shortage of sports fields across the northern beaches.**

The Wakehurst Football Club currently uses County Road for training and some home games, however there are no toilets or change rooms. This prevents the club from hosting women's matches. With the women's game becoming more popular, more accessible playing fields must be a priority.

Accessing Service NSW Rebates

With many of us struggling with rising costs, it's great to see Services NSW making it easier to work out your eligibility for NSW rebates, discounts and vouchers.

Jump online or call to book a **free 45 minute appointment** with a **Savings Finder specialist**. The appointments can either be over the phone or in person at a Services NSW Centre.

Book at www.service.nsw.gov.au/OnlineBookings or call **137 788**.

Local Anzac Day Services

I hope to see you at one of the Anzac services **in and around Wakehurst**. Our community owes a significant debt of gratitude to those before us who upheld freedom and democracy and those that continue to do so.

SUNDAY 13TH APRIL

2.40pm Forestville RSL march and service

FRIDAY 25TH APRIL - DAWN SERVICES

4.25am Manly Corso

5.30am Dee Why RSL - Ted Jackson Reserve, Dee Why Beach

5.30am Forestville RSL

5.30am Manly Dam

6.00am Oxford Falls Peace Park

FRIDAY 25TH APRIL - DAY SERVICES

7.00am Brookvale bus depot march & service

8.00am Harbord Diggers service

11.00am Manly Corso service

4.45pm Collaroy RSL, Collaroy Beach

OTHER WINS FOR WAKEHURST

PEP-11 FINALLY REFUSED

An amazing win for our NSW coastal communities, with Federal Minister for Industry and Science Ed Husic MP **formally refusing both PEP-11 applications.** This refusal further protects our precious coast from offshore oil and gas exploration and drilling. It has been a **long road to this final outcome** and I want to thank everyone across Wakehurst, the northern beaches and NSW who made sure our voices were heard and our oceans protected. **Great community led campaigns. Well done all!**

NEW MULTI-PURPOSE COURT OPENED AT BEVERLY JOB PARK, NARRAWEENA

Along with local sporting groups and Northern Beaches Council, I am so glad to have helped deliver this new court to our area through a *Local Small Commitments Grant*. **More public open space** for our local youth and broader community to practice and play sports is always a good thing. The new multi-purpose court is open and ready to use. Get down there and shoot some hoops!

PEDESTRIAN FENCING COMING TO SECTIONS OF FOREST WAY

The fencing is to be **completed in the second half of this year, between Wearden and Glen Streets.** Following great advocacy led by resident Kylie Westren, I am glad to see fencing built to protect pedestrians. With the proximity to Wakehurst Public School, I am also happy to see the school included in a **review of speed zones**, which will consider expanded speed limit reductions in the surrounding area.

CELEBRATING OUR LOCAL LEGENDS

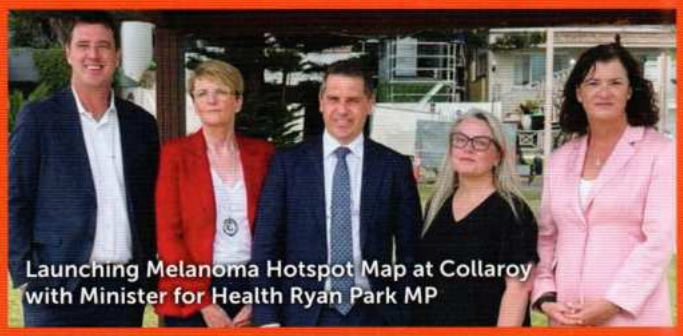
As your MP, I have the honour of delivering **Community Recognition Statements**. This means the great work of constituents and community organisations is officially recognised and recorded in Hansard.

I recently had the pleasure of acknowledging these **Wakehurst Legends!**

- Wakehurst's **Australia Day Honours** recipients:
  - **Mrs Lynette Foley OAM**, for services to swimming as an official and administrator.
  - **Mr Vivian Meredith OAM**, for services to rugby league as an administrator.
  - **Superintendent Paul Kernick BM ASM**, for being awarded the prestigious Ambulance Service Medal.
- **Killarney Heights High School boys soccer team** for winning the 2024 Bill Turner Cup, beating 850 east coast high schools!
- **Beacon Hill Public School boys touch football team** for winning the PSSA State championship and the **boys soccer team** for placing second in their comp. Several boys played in both teams!
- **Students and staff from Pittwater House** who trekked PNG's gruelling Kokoda Track.
- **Forest High's Bootcamp**, helping year six students actively transition to high school.
- **Collaroy Tennis Club** for receiving four nominations at the Tennis NSW awards.
- **Fisher Road School** for celebrating 50 years as a leader in special education.
- **Bushlink** for promoting respect for all abilities and making significant contributions to bush regeneration.
- **Taldumande Youth Services** and **Beach Reach** for supporting our at-risk teens.
- **Brookvale Arts District** and **Bennett Surf** for hosting surf culture festival *Surf, Hops and History*.
- **The Northern Beaches Domestic Violence Network** for championing the *16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence*.
- **Harrison James**, co-founder of the *Your Reference Ain't Relevant* campaign.
- **Ellen Armfield**, chair of the New South Wales Youth Advisory Council.
- **Collaroy Plateau Cricket Club** for celebrating 70 years of community cricket.
- **Nicholas Chambers** who received Northern Beaches Council Outstanding Community Service award.
- Vale **Santo Severino**, who built a successful life defined by resilience, family and community.
- Athlete **Nate Barrett**, NSW Government State Representative Award recipient.
- **Hana Marosa**, Youth Parliament taskforce member.

Out and About

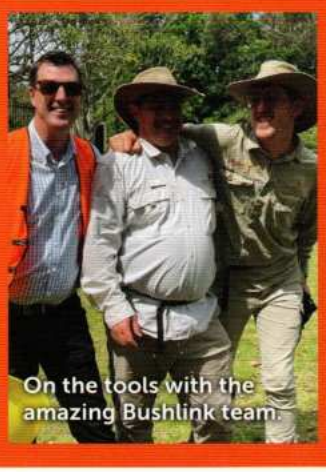
You know I love being out and about meeting people, listening to your concerns and receiving your feedback. Here are some of my recent comings and goings. Follow me on social media to keep up to date.



Launching Melanoma Hotspot Map at Collaroy with Minister for Health Ryan Park MP

Honouring our police at the Northern Beaches Area Command awards presentation.

Supporting local businesses with my mates Steve Menzies, Mark Bryant and James Griffin MP.



On the tools with the amazing Bushlink team.

Enjoying the amazing HSC Visual Arts exhibition at Manly Art Gallery

Allambie Heights, Beacon Hill, Belrose, Brookvale, Collaroy, Collaroy Plateau, Cromer, Dee Why, Forestville, Frenchs Forest, Killarney Heights, Narraweena, Oxford Falls, Wheeler Heights.

WINTER 2025

Wakehurst Matters

Michael REGAN

Your Independent MP for Wakehurst

Dear Wakehurst Resident,

Regular readers of my communications know I have been eagerly awaiting the release of the **NSW Auditor General's report into Northern Beaches Hospital.** Since becoming your State MP in March 2023, my office has received many formal and informal complaints from staff and the community about our local hospital.

My team and I were unable to get satisfactory answers from NSW Health and Healthscope, so we formally requested the NSW Auditor General undertake a performance audit of the state's only public private partnership for acute medical services.

The recent release of the sobering report has coincided with the financial demise of the hospital's operating company, which has recently called in the receivers. The situation is evolving rapidly, but I am **working with the Labor Government to untangle this mess and return the hospital to public ownership.**

Given the enormity of the situation and the impact on our community, I have devoted most of this issue of *Wakehurst Matters* to the hospital. We are hopeful for a **resolution to the hospital's ownership and future operating model within the next few months.** Please keep an eye on my social media and e-newsletter for updates. In the meantime, if you find yourself at Northern Beaches Hospital, please be sure to **thank the staff for their dedication to our community.**

Also in this edition of *Wakehurst Matters*, I reflect on my **second anniversary as your State MP** and what my team and I are working on. I often see politicians back themselves into a corner over ideology that has little relevance to people's lives. As your independent representative in NSW Parliament, **I do not think of myself as *"left"* or *"right"*, just *"forward"*.**

I thank the community for the trust they have placed in me as I move forward seeking smart solutions to the issues we face, gathering feedback and keeping you informed along the way.

As always, **you can reach me** by contacting my Electorate Office by **calling 9981 1111** or **emailing *wakehurst@parliament.nsw.gov.au***. My website ***www.michaelreganmp.com*** details my parliamentary work & community information. You can also keep up to date via my **e-newsletter** and follow me on **Facebook** & **Instagram**.

Til next time Wakehurst!

Kind regards,

Michael Regan MP
Your Independent Member for Wakehurst

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Bulk Return and Earn Centre Now at Brookvale

A new **Bulk Return and Earn Centre** has opened at Brookvale, making it easier than ever to recycle your bottles & cans.

Check out the new facility, where you can now:

- **deposit over 500 containers** with 'tip and go' technology
- use the app for quick 'tag and drop' disposal
- receive e-vouchers or elect to donate the funds to charity

Open 7am - 6pm every day at 134–140 Old Pittwater Road Brookvale

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Where to From Here? - The Future of our Hospital

On 10th April, Healthscope announced they had **asked the NSW Government to take back the hospital** *'under the provisions of the deed'*. Under private equity ownership since 2019, Healthscope has faced significant financial difficulties. Unable to meet rental obligations and under pressure from bankers, Healthscope's owner, Canadian alternative asset manager Brookfield, sought an exit strategy from its 38 hospitals.

On 15th April, the NSW Government announced a **Northern Beaches Hospital Taskforce** to *'examine the future of the disastrous privatisation deal.'* Health Minister Ryan Park said: *'This taskforce is a critical first step in untangling a complex transaction left by the previous Liberal Government.'*

On 14th May, nearly 500 concerned citizens gathered to finally hear the truth about our local public hospital. With the Member for Pittwater, I was pleased to co-host the NSW Treasurer and Health Minister at a **community forum at Dee Why RSL**.

The Health Minister said clearly that the New South Wales Government is **doing everything it can to return public services at Northern Beaches Hospital back to public hands.** He said:

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*"The NSW Treasurer and I have **made a decision to try and right a wrong**. It's not going to be easy but we can get there. This is a model of health care that no longer works. From my perspective it's a model that doesn't deliver benefits to the community in a way a public hospital does."*

I was also pleased to hear the Health Minister say *"We are not in the game of reducing services at the Northern Beaches Hospital and we will **make sure it is a properly funded hospital.**"*

The Treasurer said *"private equity should not be running acute emergency care"*. He characterised approaches to the Government to hand back the hospital as Healthscope essentially saying, *"You want us to leave, so pay us to go,"* but that the Government was determined to ensure that *"**private equity should not get a windfall from the end of the partnership**"*.

I was also pleased the shadow Minister for Health attended the forum and **apologised to the community for the previous Liberal Government's decision to close the Manly and Mona Vale public hospitals** and place essential public health services in the hands of a listed private company where, not surprisingly, profit has been the dominant consideration.

A key issue for me and the community, which came through strongly in questions from the floor, is **making sure we do not end up with fewer public beds** than we had before the new hospital was built. If Healthscope keeps the private portion of the hospital, as is its current stated intention, it is possible that we could end up with fewer public beds than we had in 2018. Given that number was inadequate then and our population has since grown, that would be an **unacceptable outcome**. It is also difficult to comprehend **how the private and public components can feasibly be separated within the one building**. It is crucial that the staff who work at the hospital have a meaningful say in what happens next. This is a priority for me.

Our community desperately **needs a sustainable, long-term operating model** at the hospital, and that is what I will be fighting for. The situation is evolving quickly and I **commit to seeking feedback and keeping the community informed** every step of the way.

The work of exposing what has happened at the hospital and charting a course forward also continues through the **NSW Parliamentary Inquiry**. Submissions closed on May 20. **I am a member of the Public Accounts Committee conducting the inquiry** and look forward to examining the evidence and contributing to the final report, which will include recommendations to the NSW Government.

It has become increasingly evident to me that the **staff have been the buffer capacity in this hospital experiment**. Yes, the State has been receiving discounted health care, but that is at an enormous personal cost to the dedicated staff who have always prioritised patient safety, day in and day out. Nobody enjoys working continuously in a pressure cooker, but that is the situation the Northern Beaches Hospital staff have been operating in for years. **I can't say it enough - thank goodness for them!**

My Private Members Bill Removes a Barrier to Public Ownership

In order to remove a significant barrier to the return of our Northern Beaches Hospital to public ownership, I was pleased to introduce **The Northern Beaches Hospital *(Voluntary Contract Termination)* Bill 2025** to parliament on 8th May.
The Bill provides that **no compensation is payable by the state to Healthscope on the voluntary termination of the contract by the state.** In doing so, it seeks to remove a key barrier to the voluntary termination of the contract by the state.

Under the project deed there are two ways to terminate the Northern Beaches Hospital contract: 1) Operator Default Termination or 2) Voluntary Termination.

The Operator Default Termination would occur if the conditions of the deed had been breached. There is not clear evidence for that, and in any case, it would be a very lengthy and contested process. The Voluntary Termination option says that the ***'State will pay to the Operator the Voluntary Termination Payment in respect of the Project in accordance with the Termination Payment Schedule'***. Crucially, we know that the **payout to the operator under voluntary termination is a barrier** to the NSW Government taking the hospital back into public hands.

This bill removes this barrier, by specifying that no compensation will be payable on the voluntary termination of the contract by the state. In doing so, it moves us a step towards what the people of the Northern Beaches deserve, what the staff at the Northern Beaches Hospital deserve: **a not-for-profit local public hospital.**

We are hopeful for a **resolution to the hospital's ownership and future operating model within the next few months.** Please keep an eye on my social media and e-newsletter for updates. In the meantime, if you find yourself at Northern Beaches Hospital, please be sure to **thank the staff for their hard work and dedication to our community.**

NEW RENTAL LAWS

Last month new renting laws came into effect which affect evictions, companion animals and the way to pay rent. **'No grounds' evictions are now unlawful.** This means that the landlord must have a valid legal reason, with evidence, to evict you. This applies to all residential tenancy agreements – both fixed-term and periodic (ongoing) agreements.

It is also now easier to have a companion animal if you are renting. You still need your landlord's consent but your landlord can only refuse consent in accordance with a legislated list of reasons, and conditions placed on having a companion animal must be reasonable.

All landlords and agents must now also provide a fee-free and accessible option to pay rent, such as bank transfers & Centrepay.

Keeping up the Pressure for Better Bus Services

One thing I inherited and promised to fix was our **declining bus service**. Turns out, the problem was worse than we knew. Not only was there a major driver shortage across both regions that cover the Northern Beaches (with two separate operators), but there was also inadequate investment and planning for the fleet's maintenance. Then the bendy buses were unexpectedly pulled off the road due to safety concerns. At the same time, the NSW Government changed the planning rules to increase density - which will further strain the bus network - while ignoring the buses.

So what have I done? I am like a broken record on the need for investment in our bus service!

I pushed hard to get a commitment for 60 new high capacity buses, including 10 new B-Lines and have been calling to get the repaired bendy buses back on the road ASAP. There is new capacity on the horizon. The NSW Government is buying new buses and the repaired bendy buses are trickling back. However, I am very concerned that this is **not happening fast enough** and in the meantime commuters continue to suffer.

I recently raised in parliament that just three of 83 bendy buses are back on the road over a month after media reports of them returning. I also moved that parliament notes there is currently no firm timeframe for the delivery of the sixty new high capacity buses. I am calling on the government to expedite bus delivery, be transparent about delivery timeframes and stick to them. I will **keep up the pressure** on this until we see reliability and increased capacity in both regions.

As a regular bus commuter myself, I share your pain and am totally committed to securing immediate relief and long-term solutions.

Raising Tick Awareness

Did you know the Northern Beaches is a major hotspot for tick-related health issues? We have the **highest prevalence of mammalian meat allergy globally** as a result of local tick bites. This is posing serious health risks such as severe allergic reactions and tick-borne illnesses.

I recently met with the team from **TIARA**, who are doing great work raising tick safety awareness.

To **stay tick-safe**:

- ✓ wear protective clothing
- ✓ use tick repellent
- ✓ check regularly for ticks
- ✓ remove ticks properly

Visit ***www.tiara.org.au*** for information and instructions on the safe removal of ticks.

Please stay vigilant and protect yourself and your loved ones from tick-related health issues.

2 YEARS Working for Wakehurst

March marked the second anniversary as your Member for Wakehurst. For many in the community, the 2023 State election was their first time voting for an Independent MP and I am deeply honoured and humbled by the trust you have placed in me. My team and I hit the ground running, securing many wins for Wakehurst across transport, healthcare, education and the environment.

Locally, we have dealt with over 2,000 unique constituent cases, met directly with 230 community members, attended over 500 community events, as well as visiting 40 local schools.

In Parliament, I have had over 60 meetings with ministers, moved amendments to legislation, contributed to legislative debates, delivered many speeches and asked many questions. In addition, over 80 local legends have been honoured via Community Recognition Statements, which you can read on my website ***www.michaelreganmp.com***

The numerous bus delays and cancellations across the Northern Beaches because of a clear lack of investment in drivers and maintenance made it clear we needed additional new buses (and drivers) to fix our bus networks. So far, we have **secured sixty new buses** - ten double-deckers and fifty bendy buses, 146 additional B-Line weekly services and additional services on many popular routes. I am also pleased that Brookvale bus depot is the first NSW depot to be electrified. I continue to push for a **B-Line service from Dee Why to link with Chatswood's Metro** and for an "on-demand" Keo-ride trial around Wakehurst.

I have been fighting for better healthcare and crisis support across the Northern Beaches, launching the independent NSW Auditor General's inquiry into the hospital and working hard to return our local hospital to public ownership. I am also helping conduct the NSW Parliamentary Inquiry into the Northern Beaches Hospital. I introduced my own Private Members Bill, the **Northern Beaches Hospital (Voluntary Contract Termination) Bill 2025**, which ensures taxpayers do not pay operator Healthscope to withdraw from our hospital. I continue to advocate for **safe staffing ratios** at Northern Beaches Hospital and adequate **staffing for our region's paramedics**.

I fought to keep the $4.5 million funding boost for youth mental health services as well as the opening of a **new youth mental health crisis centre** at Brookvale Health Centre. I worked to ensure the successful ***Staying Home Leaving Violence*** program comes to the Northern Beaches and other parts of NSW, where the scheme did not operate. I continue to push for more capacity at **Dee Why Women's Refuge**, and upgrades and/or relocations of the outdated **Dee Why police and Narrabeen ambulance stations**.

In education, we are seeing good progress with the construction of the new Forest High and the upgrade of the last science lab at Killarney Heights High. Following my ***Wakehurst Schools' Facility Survey***, we secured funding for planning of an indoor, multi-purpose sport and drama facility at NBSC Cromer Campus and a new playground at Dee Why Public School. Last year, I launched a petition for NSW to fully fund its public schools, and was pleased to see in March the government announce full funding of public schools. I continue to work hard to ensure housing developed on the old Forest High site has a **high affordable component for essential workers** and is delivered in a timely manner.

Increasingly frequent and severe weather events are having significant impacts here and across the State. We can't bury our heads in the sand over climate disruption. Locally I have advocated hard against the proposed Payegarang (Lizard Rock) re-zoning and PEP-11. We got the win with **PEP-11** and I am hoping to be successful with **Lizard Rock**. $106 million was secured to upgrade and floodproof Wakehurst Parkway. I am working hard to achieve a permanent solution so **Narrabeen's athletics track** can soon re-open with superior facilities. Statewide, I'm actively seeking to expedite the opening of the **Great Koala National Park** and I continue to advocate for homeowners and businesses to receive **interest-free loans to install rooftop solar**.

There's still so much to do and I am looking forward to seeing our community get the infrastructure, services and support it rightfully deserves. Thanks for your support over the past two years and **I promise to keep working hard for Wakehurst!**

Northern Beaches Hospital Receives Sobering Audit Report

Since 2018, the people of the Northern Beaches have been the **subjects of an experiment in public health**. With the Northern Beaches Hospital, we were promised the best quality healthcare. In fact, operator Healthscope committed to perform in the top quartile of comparator hospitals on many measures. And the state would get these superior services at a discount. **Sounds too good to be true? Turns out, it was!**

Since becoming your State MP in March 2023, my office has received many formal and informal complaints from staff and the community about our local hospital.

My team and I were **unable to get satisfactory answers from NSW Health or Healthscope**, so we formally requested the NSW Auditor General undertake an audit of the state's only public private partnership for acute medical services.

This report is now released and makes for sobering reading. This was a major milestone in **my push for greater transparency and accountability** of this facility. The report concludes that

*'the public-private partnership is **not effectively delivering the best quality integrated health services and clinical outcomes** to the Northern Beaches community and the State – the standard required under the arrangement and the key objective of the project deed.'*

The Auditor General found that NSW Health effectively manages the contract with Healthscope but ***'the public-private partnership structure creates tension between commercial imperatives and clinical outcomes.'***

The report identifies high rates of hospital-acquired complications including elevated levels of falls, third and fourth degree perineal lacerations and birth trauma. **Cost cutting can be identified as a driving factor** behind all of these.

The audit found the project deed does **not support the hospital's integration into the Local Health District** and broader health network. As the government rolls out new initiatives, including safe staffing ratios, the only 'public' hospital for the 279,000 people on the Northern Beaches will miss out if it stays privately operated.

It is important to note that the Auditor General's report finds that on some high-level performance metrics, the hospital is doing relatively well, including compared to peer public hospitals. They have also **maintained all necessary accreditation and licensing.**

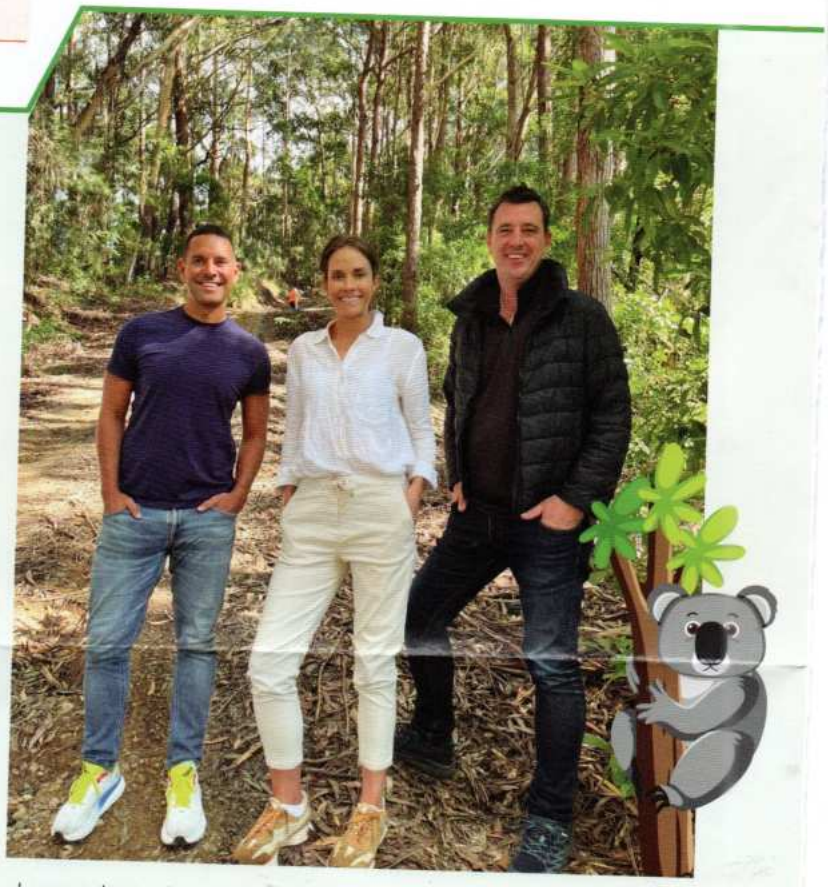
It is clear these positive outcomes arise from the **incredible effort and dedication of hospital staff** to ensure patients come first, in spite of the limitations of the Public Private Partnership (PPP). This has come at immense personal cost to hospital staff and **we owe them a massive debt of gratitude.**

You can read the auditor's report on my website at: ***www.michaelreganmp.com***

Let's Get On with the Great Koala National Park

After two years in power, it's time for NSW Labor to deliver on their election promise and **make the Great Koala National Park a reality**. I enjoyed a short trip to Coffs Harbour with fellow Independent MPs Alex Greenwich and Jacqui Scruby. The purpose of our visit was to hear a serious message from over 100 local tourism and hospitality businesses: It's time for the NSW Government to create the Great Koala National Park.

Not only will the park protect native forests - **some of the best koala habitat in the state** - it will attract many tourists. The park will make this great region an even more irresistible holiday destination to explore nature, be it by mountain bike, kayak, horseback or on foot. And it will complement the amazing hospitality venues and other activities that make the region so good. My hope is Wakehurst residents can soon start planning their holidays to visit the Great Koala National Park!



I was pleased to subsequently **co-host an event in parliament** where the economic opportunity of the park took centre stage. I facilitated a meeting between local tourism business representatives and the NSW Premier, so they could share their message directly. I believe that the Premier was encouraged to hear about the level of local support and this will help get the park over the line soon.

We are **pushing the NSW Government to urgently**:

- Create the full 176,000 hectare Great Koala National Park
- Invest in timber plantations and wood manufacturing
- Deliver a fair transition package to assist impacted workers

HONOURING LOCAL LEGENDS

As your MP, I have the honour of delivering **Community Recognition Statements**. This means the great work of constituents and community organisations is officially recognised and recorded in Hansard, the official record of Parliament

I recently had the pleasure of acknowledging these **Wakehurst Legends**.

- Vale **Geoffrey Edward Brown**, for fifty years service as a Justice of the Peace and valued member of Forestville RSL
- Organisers and volunteers at **Head Above Water**, an annual 24-hour swim raising funds and awareness for mental fitness and suicide prevention
- **Collaroy Tennis Club** for hosting its inaugural Pride in Sport event
- **Steven Curtis** for winning KALOF's Peoples Choice Award at the Out Front art exhibition
- **Georgia Feledy** for being selected to perform in The Nutcracker with The Australian Ballet
- Dr Peter Prendergast and his **team at Collaroy Veterinary Hospital**
- **Lifeline** and **Forest High School** for launching their Fashion by Lifeline store
- **Luke Chen** for receiving the NSW Government State Representative Award for swimming
- **Manly Warringah Choir** for celebrating their fifty year anniversary
- Vale **Richard Gordon**, beloved member of Killarney Heights and Forestville community
- **Peter McAskill JP** for his commitment to volunteering at Forestville RSL

Unanimous Support for Joe's Law

In response to the tragic passing of toddler Joe Massa at Northern Beaches Hospital, the government introduced the **Health Services Amendment (PPP Prohibition Bill) 2025** to prevent any future PPPs for acute public hospital services in NSW.

We heard from all sides of the chamber that future PPPs for acute hospital services **should be avoided at all costs**. The former Coalition government had slated five hospitals for public private partnerships in NSW, however abandoned them all except our one.

Clearly, PPPs have been, and will continue to be, crucial in delivering some public infrastructure. But what this bill does is recognise that **acute hospital services sit in a different category**. Public acute hospital services are about life and death. What this bill does is unequivocally acknowledge that these settings are **fundamentally not appropriate to be run with the profit motivation of a private entity**.

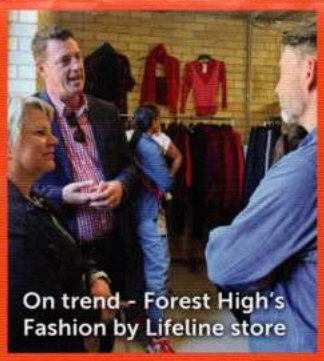
More so than any other public service provided by the state, hospitals are where people go when they are at their most vulnerable, often most connected to what really matters in life: their own health and mortality, the grief of death and joy of new life. **It is a true test of a civilised society how we resource and service our citizens at these points.**

The Northern Beaches Hospital experiment has shown us that acute hospital services **should not be run as for-profit operations under PPP arrangements**. I am glad our state has finally learnt that lesson.

Out and About

You know I love being out and about meeting people, listening to your concerns and receiving your feedback. Here are some of my recent comings and goings. Follow me on social media to keep up to date.

Glad to help fund Belrose RFS upgrade their bathroom


On trend - Forest High's Fashion by Lifeline store

Commemorating our ANZACs at Pittwater House

Pleasure hosting Year 6 School Leaders at Parliament

Loved playing in Cromer Cricket's T20 Grand Final

Allambie Heights, Beacon Hill, Belrose, Brookvale, Collaroy, Collaroy Plateau, Cromer, Dee Why, Forestville, Frenchs Forest, Killarney Heights, Narraweena, Oxford Falls, Wheeler Heights.